

30 March 2005



Iraq Weekly Status Report

UNCLASSIFIED



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Highlights

1.0 Neutralize the Insurgents

- Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) foiled an attack in Karbala, arresting a group of 130 people possessing large quantities of explosives.

2.0 Ensure the Continuation of Support for Iraq's Electoral Process through 2005

- The second session of the Transitional National Assembly (TNA) was held on March 29.
- TNA members and political parties continue negotiations regarding the formation of the Iraqi Transitional Government (ITG).

3.0 Create Jobs and Provide Essential Services

- On March 25, the State Department advised Congress of its intent to reallocate \$832 million within the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund (IRRF) to fund a \$225 million jobs creation program, as well as \$607 million to fund operations and maintenance activities and other urgent priorities.
- PCO has started construction on the \$23 million Balad Ruz Water Treatment Plant, the third large plant to start construction.



Highlights

4.0 Establish Foundations for a Strong Economy

- The Ministry of Finance auctioned ID 200 billion (about \$137 million) in T-bills on March 21; the settlement yield was 3.0 percent with six banks offering winning bids.

5.0 Establish Good Governance, Rule of Law

- Thirty Iraqi women civil society leaders participated in a week-long national conference on gender issues and civil society. Participants discussed ways to advocate for women's rights and to encourage women to participate in the drafting of the new constitution.

6.0 Maintain International Engagement and Support

- Romanian President Basescu visited his country's servicemen serving in Iraq on March 27. He praised the troops for their service and said that Romania was committed to the missions of Iraq reconstruction and stabilization.



[1.0] Neutralize the Insurgents – Iraqi Security Forces Update

Ministry of Interior Forces

COMPONENT	TRAINED & EQUIPPED
POLICE	55,174
HIGHWAY PATROL	
OTHER MOI FORCES	29,153
TOTAL	84,327*

Ministry of Defense Forces

COMPONENT	OPERATIONAL
ARMY	66,584
AIR FORCE	186
NAVY	521
TOTAL	67,291**

Total Trained & Equipped ISF:

151,618

* Ministry of Interior Forces: Unauthorized absences personnel are included in these numbers

** Ministry of Defense Forces: Unauthorized absences personnel are not included in these numbers



[2.0] Ensure the Continuation of Support for Iraq's Electoral Process through 2005 – **Developments**

ITG Formation:

- The second session of the Transitional National Assembly (TNA) was held on March 29.
- TNA members and political parties continue negotiations regarding the formation of the Iraqi Transitional Government (ITG).



[2.0] Ensure the Continuation of Support for Iraq's Electoral Process through 2005 – **Developments**

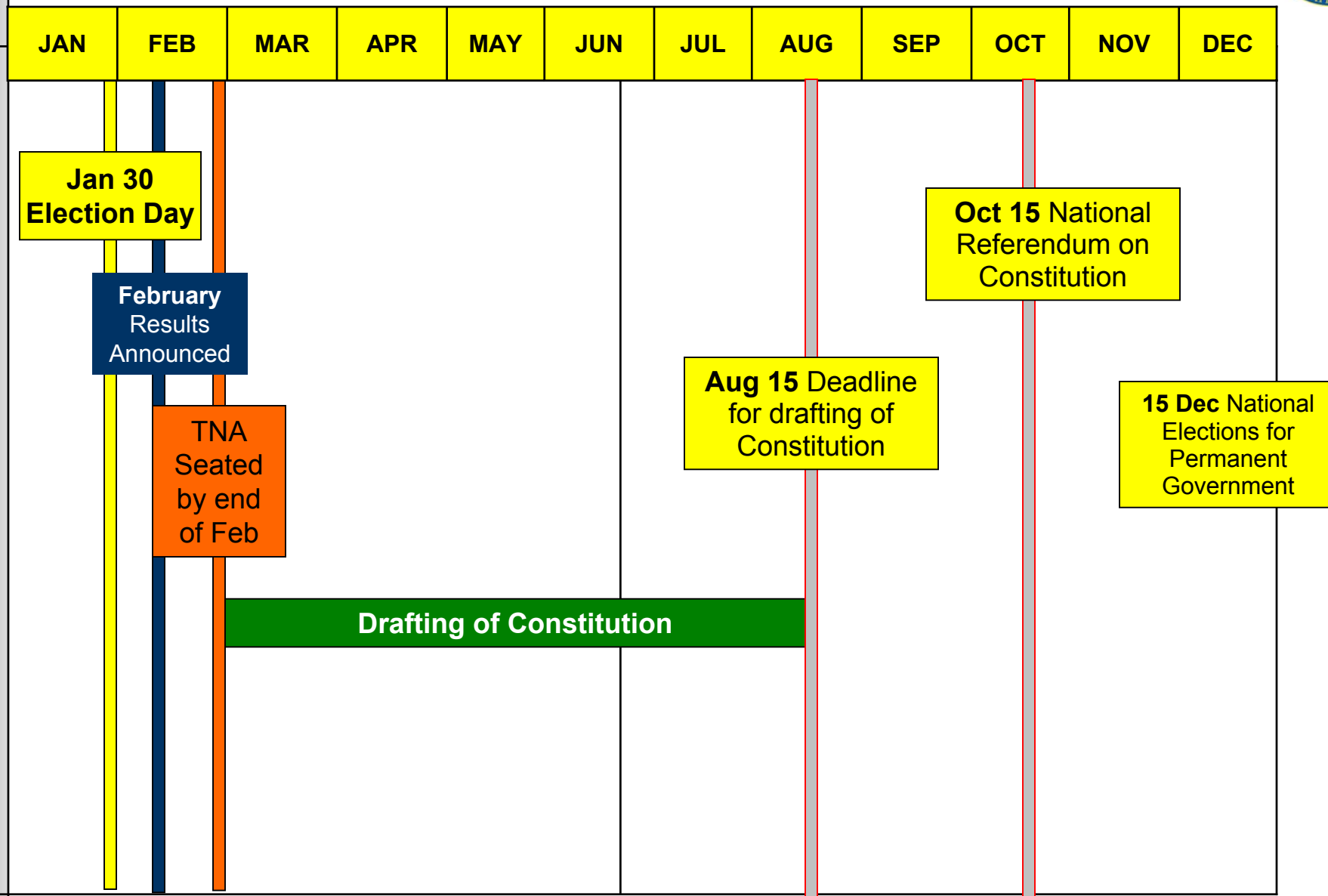
Transitional National Assembly (TNA):

- The TNA will:
 - Serve as Iraq's national legislature until the election of a new government under a permanent constitution.
 - Approve a Presidency Council, consisting of a president and two deputy presidents, by a two-thirds vote. The Presidency Council will then appoint a Prime Minister. The Prime Minister and his Council of Ministers must receive a vote of confidence in the Assembly by a simple majority.
 - According to the Transitional Administrative Law, the TNA is to draft Iraq's new Constitution by August 15, 2005; this will be presented to the Iraqi people for their approval in a national referendum by October 15, 2005.
 - If it is approved, an election for a permanent Iraqi government under that new Constitution will occur by the end of 2005.



[2.0] Ensure the Continuation of Support for Iraq's Electoral Process through 2005 – **Electoral Process Timeline**

DEPARTMENT OF STATE





[3.0] Create Jobs and Provide Essential Services – **Economy**

Oil Update:

- Crude oil prices in world markets for the week ending March 25 closed with Kirkuk Crude at \$46.44/barrel, Basra Light at \$46.60/barrel, and the OPEC basket at \$50.50/barrel.

Employment Update:

- Number of Iraqis employed by USG-administered projects in each sector

Employing Organization	Iraqis Last Week	Iraqis This Week	% Change on Week
PCO (Project and Contracting Office)	24,794	24,519	-1.1%
USAID	88,561	77,192	-12.8%
AIRP (Accelerated Iraqi Reconstruction Program)	4,650	4,500	-3.2%
MILCON (Military Construction)	612	562	-8.2%
*CERP (Commanders' Emergency Response Program)	23,706	23,706	0.0%
*MNSTC-I	12,339	12,339	0.0%
IRRF NON-CONSTRUCTION	12,016	10,679	-11.1%
GRAND TOTAL	166,678	153,497	-7.9%



[3.0] Create Jobs and Provide Essential Services – **Health Care and Food Security**

Health Care:

- Construction is underway on 112 new primary health care (PHC) facilities across Iraq. Under the Accelerated Iraq Reconstruction Program (AIRP), an additional two PHCs are under construction and seven have been completed.
- Through USAID's Higher Education and Development (HEAD) program, two Iraqi universities are implementing a research project to find preventative procedures for B-Thalassemia, a blood disease prevalent throughout Iraq.
 - The program partner, the Mississippi Consortium for International Development (MCID) led by Jackson State University, supports three Iraqi universities in the fields of public health and sanitation.

Public Distribution System (PDS):

- The Ministry of Trade (MoT) stated there will be enough wheat for the full ration in April, but the remaining stock of both imported and domestic wheat will be exhausted by the end of April. MoT will import an additional 315,000 MT of wheat per month for May and June.
- MoT doubled rice imports for February and March over December and January and nearly met the full ration requirement for each month.



[3.0] Create Jobs and Provide Essential Services – **Education & Telecommunications**

School Renovations:

- PCO has completed 302 schools renovations to date and a further 373 are under construction. Under the AIRP program, an additional 24 school renovations have been completed and 12 are underway.
 - 840 schools are scheduled for completion by mid-2005.

USAID's Education II Program:

- This week USAID's Education II program delivered 137,112 education kits containing textbooks and school supplies to secondary school students. The kits are now being distributed among 2,014 secondary schools throughout Iraq.
- During the past month, the Education II project trained more than 3,000 educators in 32 workshops throughout Iraq on capacity building to improve teaching techniques for primary school teachers.

Telecommunications:

- The number of telephone landline subscribers throughout Iraq is 982,561, and cell phone subscribers number 1,999,554. This combined total of 2,982,115 is 241 percent greater than the number of active landline subscribers before the war. Internet subscriptions have risen to 147,076, more than a 100 percent increase since July 2004.



[3.0] Create Jobs and Provide Essential Services – **Water and Sanitation**

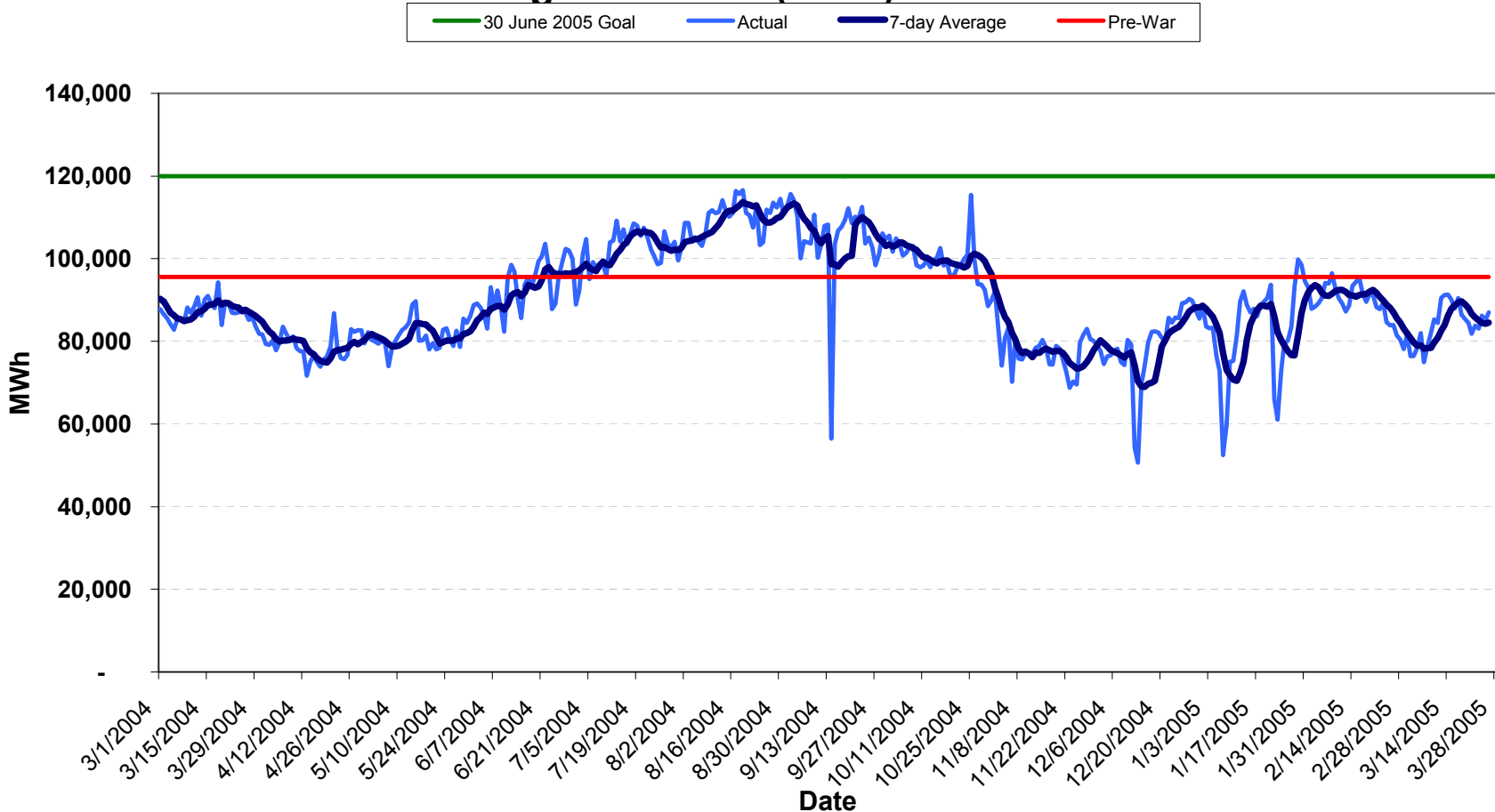
Water and Sanitation:

- PCO has started construction on the \$23 million Balad Ruz Water Treatment Plant, the third large plant to start construction.
 - PCO has 49 water treatment projects underway and has completed three to date. Under the AIRP program, there are an additional 13 water treatment projects under construction; 35 have been completed.
- The US Army Corps of Engineers is completing the rehabilitation of the Zeblin sewer line, a \$6.5 million sewer project in Sadr City.
 - The Zeblin line is currently the primary trunk line servicing all of Sadr City; every sewer line in the city eventually feeds into it.
 - The line is set for completion by the end of the month.



[3.0] Create Jobs and Provide Essential Services – Electricity Overview

Megawatt-Hour (MWh) Load Served



- Electricity load served in the last week (March 21 – 27) was 86,700 MWh.
- Hours of available power averaged 11.8 in Baghdad.
- Scheduled and unscheduled outages were 1,289 MW and 878 MW, respectively.



[4.0] Establish Foundations for a Strong Economy

Iraq Currency Exchange:

- At the New Iraqi Dinar (NID) auction on March 28, the settlement price was 1,460 dinars per USD with a total of 20 banks trading. The following table shows the purchase value of the top five banks:

Bank Name	Qty Sold (in thousands of USD)	Percentage of Total Auction
Al-Rasheed	\$8,360	45.43%
Middle East Bank	\$1,400	7.61%
Dar El-Slaam Bank	\$1,240	6.74%
Economic Bank	\$1,120	6.09%
Agriculture Bank	\$960	5.22%
Total	\$13,080	71.09%

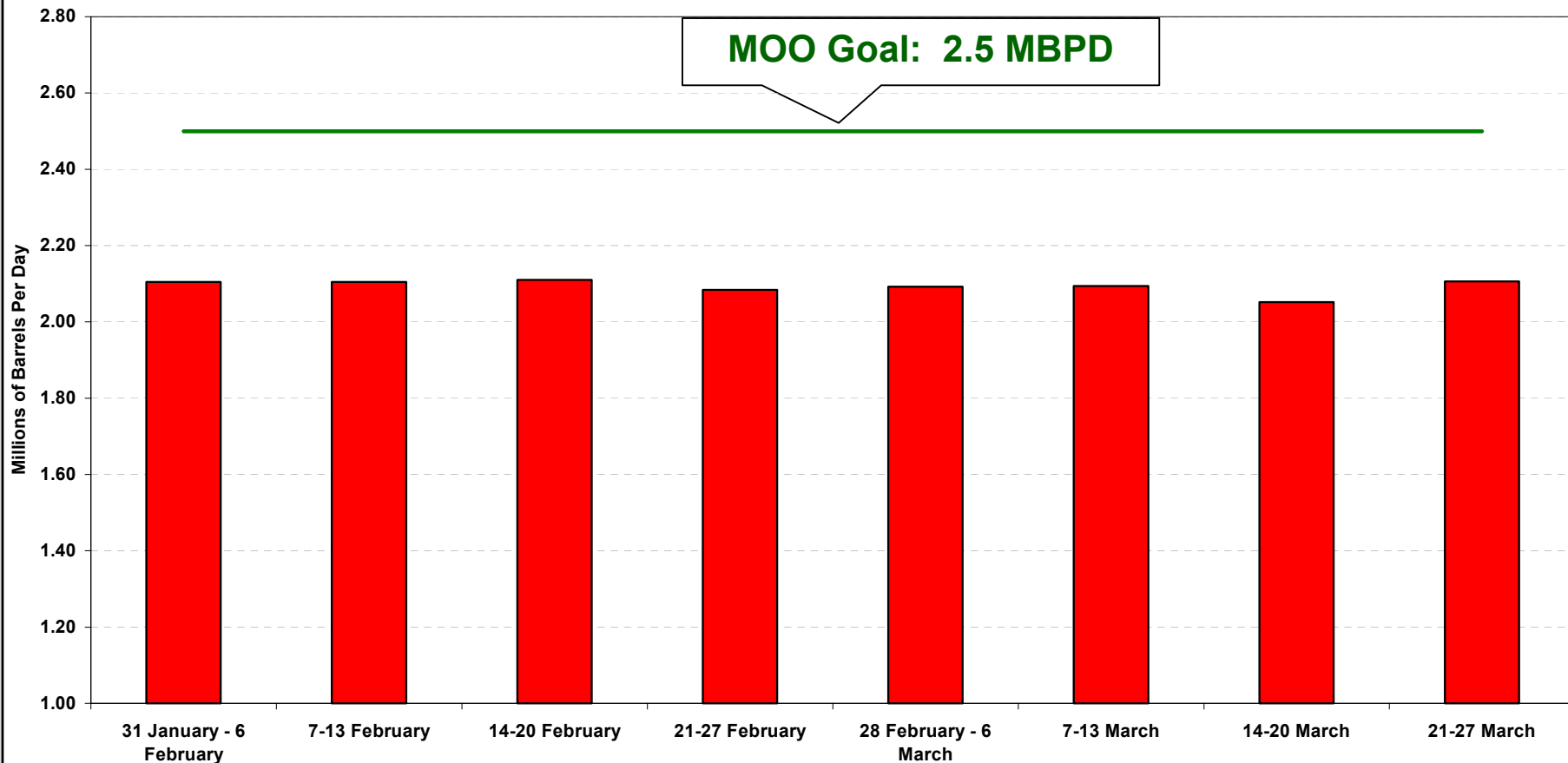
Iraqi Securities Exchange:

- The Ministry of Finance auctioned ID 200 billion (about \$137 million) in T-bills on March 21; the settlement yield was 3.0 percent with six banks offering winning bids. The following shows the results of the previous four auctions:

No. of Auction	Date of Auction	Amount of Issue	Term of Security (in days)	Maturity Date	Number competitive Bidders	Winning Bidders	Total Valid Competitive Bids	Total Competitive Awarded	Cover Ratio %	Bid Range yields	Cut Off yield
12	12/19/2004	200.030	91	3/21/2005	12	12	282.300	196.730	196.730	2.50%-10.00%	6.00%
13	1/2/2005	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14	1/16/2005	100.030	91	4/18/2005	11	9	127.000	97.530	130.22	3.00% - 6.80%	5.50%
15	2/6/2005	100.040	91	5/9/2005	11	7	137.400	96.940	141.74	3.00%-7.00%	5.00%
16	2/20/2005	150.020	91	5/23/2005	10	4	253.000	145.520	173.86	3.00 %- 7.00%	3.00%
17	3/6/2005	200.040	91	6/6/2005	8	6	399.500	197.040	202.75	2.00%- 6.90%	3.00%
18	3/20/2005	200.040	91	6/20/2005	8	6	424.000	197.040	215.18	2.00% - 6.50%	3.00%



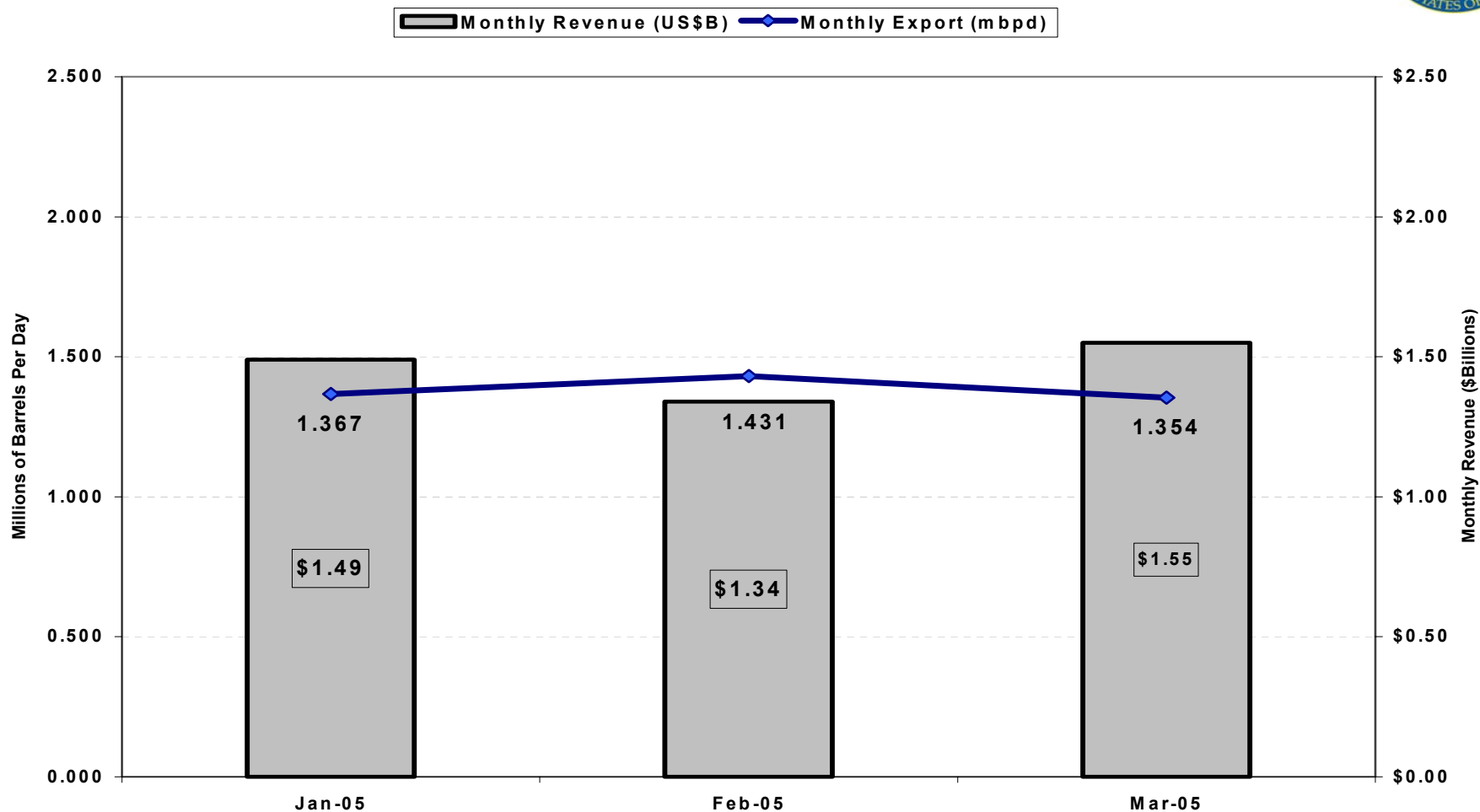
[4.0] Establish Foundations for a Strong Economy – Crude Oil Production



- Weekly Average (March 21-27) of 2.11 MBPD
- Pre-War Peak: 2.5 MBPD in March 2003
- Post-War Peak: 2.67 MBPD



[4.0] Establish Foundations for a Strong Economy – Crude Oil Export

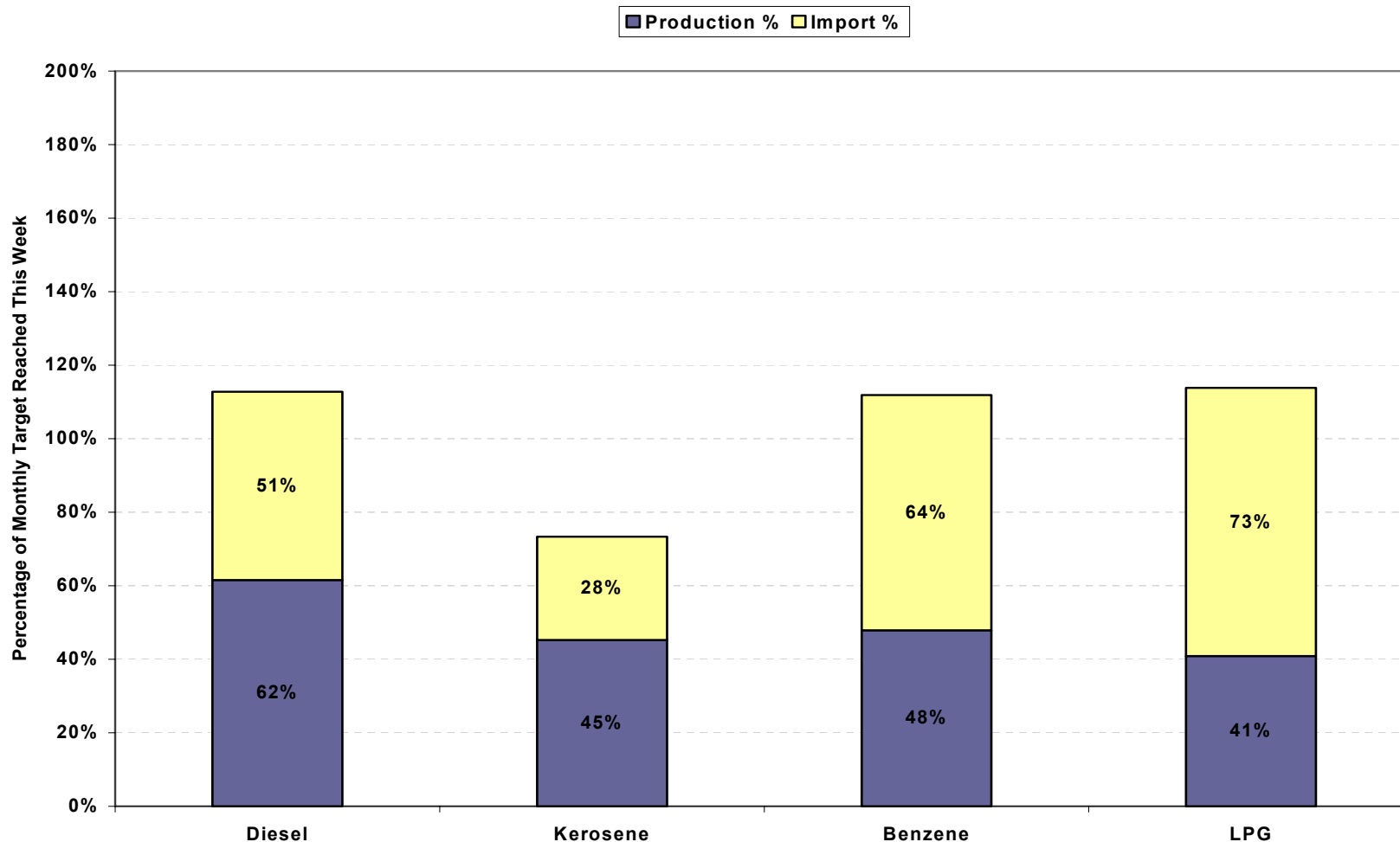


- 2003 Revenue: \$5,076.6 M
- 2004 Revenue: \$17,012.3 M
- 2005 Revenue: \$4,380.0 M (to date)

Note: 5 percent war reparations to Kuwait has been withdrawn from revenue totals.



[4.0] Establish Foundations for a Strong Economy – Refined Products

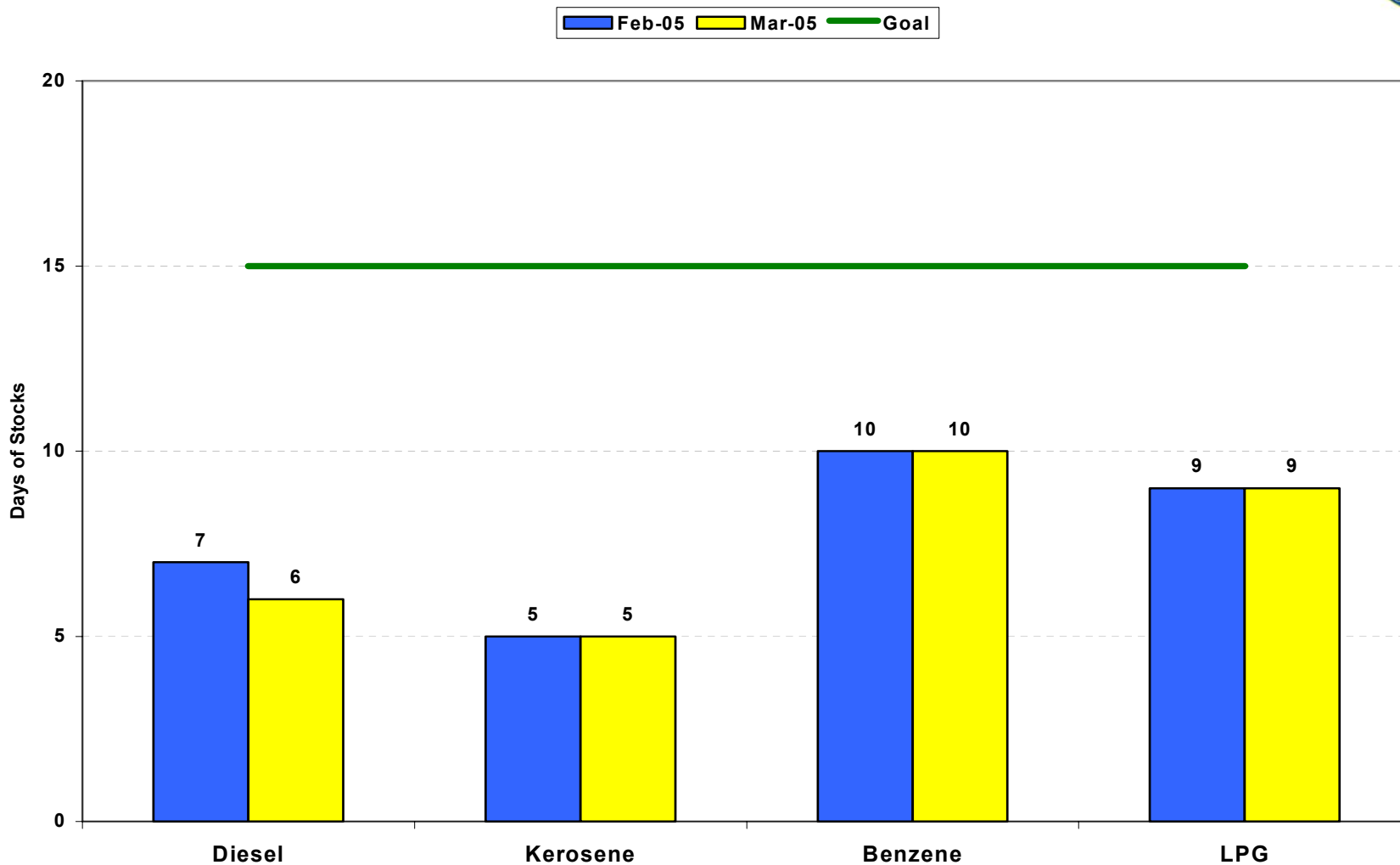


Note: This chart represents the average percentage of daily target reached for the week of March 21-27

- Diesel: 20.1 ML of 18 ML
- Kerosene: 7.4 ML of 10.1 ML
- Benzene: 20.1 ML of 18 ML
- LPG: 4,893 tons of 4,300 tons



[4.0] Establish Foundations for a Strong Economy – National Stock Levels



- The goal is for all refined products to be over 15 days worth of stocks at maximum consumption rates and does not represent seasonal change. The numbers given above are monthly averages.



[4.0] Establish Foundations for a Strong Economy – IRRF I & II Financials

Financial Status-IRRF I & II			Committed		Obligated		Disbursed	
Sector	2207 Report	Apportion	Last Week	Current	Last Week	Current	Last Week	Current
Security and Law Enforcement	5,045	5,045	4,585	4,585	3,744	3,822	1,708	1,742
Electricity Sector	4,369	4,078	3,909	3,902	2,798	2,803	889	936
Oil Infrastructure	1,701	1,701	1,563	1,562	1,007	1,005	211	221
Justice, Public Safety, and Civil Society	1,120	1,120	978	971	757	767	193	197
Democracy	832	832	738	754	663	668	291	309
Education, Refugees, Human Rights, Governance	379	379	285	283	234	251	66	67
Roads, Bridges, and Construction	359	355	339	340	185	186	54	58
Health Care	786	786	743	759	432	451	51	54
Transportation and Communications	513	513	483	485	320	321	53	61
Water Resources and Sanitation	2,279	1,770	1,753	1,753	965	973	93	97
Private Sector Development	843	835	776	777	761	762	436	438
Admin Expense (USAID)	213	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
IRRF II SUBTOTAL	18,439	17,443	16,181	16,200	11,895	12,038	4,074	4,209
IRRF II CONSTRUCTION	11,306	10,378	10,026	10,067	6,890	6,932	1,869	1,951
IRRF II NON-CONSTRUCTION	6,301	6,232	5,417	5,380	4,342	4,436	1,914	1,949
IRRF II DEMOCRACY	832	832	738	753	663	668	291	309
IRRF I SUBTOTAL	2,475	2,475	2,475	2,475	2,475	2,475	2,150	2,150
GRAND TOTAL IRRF I & II	20,914	19,918	18,656	18,675	14,370	14,513	6,224	6,359

Data as of March 30, 2005



[5.0] Establish Good Governance, Rule of Law – Refugees, Democracy and Human Rights

Advocating for Women's Rights:

- Thirty Iraqi women civil society leaders participated in a week-long national conference on gender issues and civil society. Participants discussed ways to advocate for women's rights and to encourage women to participate in the drafting of the new constitution.

Improving Refugees' Living Conditions:

- Last week, 172 Kurdish refugees living in deeply impoverished conditions along the banks of the Sirwan River, received livelihood assets packages of basic living essentials. A USAID partner delivered 26 livelihood assets packages to the internally displaced persons (IDP), and estimates that over 1,100 vulnerable families in Sulaymaniya and Diyala will receive a package in the next month.

Iraqis Join Together in Blood Drive:

- Dozens of Iraqis lined up March 27 outside a blood donation station set at the headquarters of the Iraqi Islamic Party. The Iraqi National Center for Blood Donation is facing an acute shortage of blood. The blood donation campaign, designated to help address the problem, is expected to last for several days.



[5.0] Establish Good Governance, Rule of Law – Refugees, Democracy and Human Rights

Iraq's Anti-Corruption Head Gets Tough On Officials:

- Anti-corruption efforts continue, with the head of the Commission on Public Integrity announcing that senior Iraqi officials will soon be required to declare their assets.

USAID Grant Aids Translation of International Statutes:

- The University of Hillah, through a grant provided by USAID, continues to translate approximately 14,000 pages of case law. The first translations have arrived in Baghdad and will be posted on the Iraqi Special Tribunals website.

Students Lead Protests to Secularize Campus:

- Student protestors from the Engineering College, joined by demonstrators from Basra and Shatt al-Arab Universities, marched in front of the Basra governor's office. The students' demanded the removal of the influence of the religious-political parties from campus and symbols "glorifying the parties."



[6.0] Maintain Int'l Engagement & Support – **Developments**

International Support:

- Romanian President Basescu visited his country's servicemen serving in Iraq on March 27. He praised the troops for their service and said that Romania was committed to the missions of Iraq reconstruction and stabilization.
- Martin Kobler, German ambassador to Egypt, emphasized the countries' continued cooperation during a graduation ceremony of 28 Iraqi technicians who completed management, mechanical engineering, and power stations technology training in Cairo. The project, organized by the German Agency for Technical Cooperation, supports the courses set up by the Egyptian Production Sufficiency and Vocational Training Department. 180 Iraqis are expected to complete training by the end of 2005.



[6.0] Maintain Int'l Engagement & Support – **Stability Contributors**

27 MNF-I Contributors (in addition to US)

Albania	El Salvador	Latvia	Poland
Armenia	Estonia	Lithuania	Romania
Australia	Georgia	Macedonia	Singapore
Azerbaijan	Italy	Moldova	Slovakia
Bulgaria	Japan	Mongolia	Ukraine
Czech Rep	Kazakhstan	Netherlands	UK
Denmark	Korea	Norway	

*Note: Fiji participating as a part of the UN mission in Iraq. NTM-I forces in country total over 130 additional personnel from 17 countries, including the US.

TOTAL ~ 25,000 Forces

28 Countries and NATO
(including US)
Support Iraqi Stability Operations



Iraq Weekly Status – General Information

- This brief draws from multiple sources. References are cited on the respective pages in the “Notes Page” section (View → Notes Page).
- Please forward all questions and/or comments to (unclassified) NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.gov or (classified) NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.sgov.gov